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12. (Currently amended) A ~~router~~ device as recited in claim 11 wherein a plurality of packets form a message and each packet includes a sequence number indicative of the position of the packet with respect to other packets in the same message, the sequence numbers of the same message being in sequential order wherein a loss of packets is detected when one or more sequence numbers are missing from the received packets of the same message.

13. (Currently amended) A ~~router~~ device as recited in claim 1 wherein the degradation in the quality of the voice information is due to an intolerable delay associated with the time for a packet to travel between the ~~router~~ device and the remotely located ~~router~~ device.

14. (Currently amended) A ~~router device for use in a communication system having a first telephone device for causing the transmission of voice conversations and a first fax machine coupled to the router device, the router device responsive to telephone signals, carrying voice conversations, generated by the first telephone device and fax signals generated by the first fax machine and operative to transfer digital information, through a packet switching network, to a remotely located router coupled to a second telephone device for receiving the voice conversations and a second fax machine comprising:~~

a digital signal processor (DSP) module for ~~carrying a user-initiated telephone conversation on a telephone line connecting the first telephone device and the second telephone device through the a packet switching network, the DSP module further responsive to analog fax signals from from the a first fax machine and further operative to convert the analog fax signals to digital fax signals and to packetize the digital fax signals for transmission, through the packet switching network, to the second fax machine, the DSP module to negotiate a codec by simultaneously sending to another DSP module one or more types of codecs that each supports and selecting a mutually supported codec with a predetermined protocol,~~

wherein the fax transmission ~~from the first fax machine to the second fax machine takes place on the telephone line causing~~ may cause a temporary interruption to the telephone conversation thereby avoiding the need for telephone connection to be disconnected prior to the fax transmission and wherein frequency adjustments are made to compensate for ~~differences in frequency between the fax transmission and the telephone signal.~~